

2023 KCMA Kentucky General Assembly military-veterans legislation tracker (FINAL)

Working document

Complete through March 31, 2023

BILLS THAT PASSED THE 2023 KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HB 1 (Reed)

- **Amend KRS 141.020 to reduce the individual income tax to 4.5% for taxable years beginning January 1, 2023, and to 4% for taxable years beginning January 1, 2024.**
 - Part of the legislative leadership initiative to reduce state income tax to zero for all parties by 2031
 - Passed rapidly, signed by Governor

HB 2 (Meredith)

- **Provide General Fund moneys in the amount of \$16,630,000 in fiscal year 2022-2023 from the Budget Reserve Trust Fund Account to the Department of Veterans' Affairs for construction of the Bowling Green Veterans Center.**
 - Emergency appropriation to ensure flow of construction funding
 - Passed rapidly, signed by Governor

HB 29 (Lewis)

- **Amend KRS 40.315 to remove the residency requirement for interment in veteran cemeteries**
 - Passed House, 96-0; languished in Senate VMAPP last year
 - This legislation came up a couple years ago through the efforts of former KDVA Commissioner Les Beavers, who recently served as the chair of the national association of state VA directors
 - Many states, including Tennessee, are struggling to find burial space for veterans
 - Kentucky still has ample space available in some of their KDVA-operated cemeteries, especially the one in Western Kentucky, which is attractive to Tennessee
 - Currently Kentucky cemeteries are limited to Kentucky-related veterans only - they must be from Kentucky, or have served in Kentucky, or have family in Kentucky
 - KDVA has gone to great lengths to qualify veterans for burial in our state cemeteries, to their credit
 - KDVA now reports it has a strong long-term plan, and that this legislation is essential to ensure continued federal funds are available in the future, anticipating coming VA requirements to ensure widespread accessibility
 - Land can be obtained for such a noble purpose - it's the federal funding to support our cemeteries that needs to be ensured
 - This is a "forever" challenge for states, so it's a good time to develop a long-term plan

- That hasn't been a current need for new funding due to readily available space in our veterans' cemeteries
- How fast will they fill up, and how will new land be acquired and developed?
 - KDVA does a great job with our veterans' cemeteries and has a good feel for that
- Passed House 93-0 Feb. 24
- Passed Senate 37-0 March 30

HB 157 (Hart)

- **Create a new section of KRS Chapter 39A to create the Kentucky Urban Search and Rescue Program under the Division of Emergency Management**
 - DMA agency legislation
 - This legislation supports DMA's Division of Emergency Management in creating the state's capability to perform urban search and rescue operations, which has been identified as a needed capability for county emergency operations
 - There is a substantial fiscal requirement to stand up operations, which is the main obstacle to passage in a non-budget session
 - Passed House A & R and VMAPP committees, Passed House Floor (96-0)
 - Passed Senate 36-0 on March 16

HB 226 (Bauman)

- **Create new sections of KRS Chapter 194A to establish the administration of behavioral health community crisis response and transfer the administration from the Department for Military Affairs to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services; repeal KRS 36.250, 36.255, 36.260, 36.265, and 36.270, related to the Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board.**
 - DMA agency legislation
 - Long overdue move to place the KCCRB mission where it most properly belongs
 - They are not first-responders and do not operate with the Kentucky National Guard or its Division of Emergency Management
 - Passed House Chamber (99-0)
 - Passed Senate VMAPP March 14 (36-0)

HB 244 (Fugate)

- **Create a new section of KRS Chapter 36 to establish the Kentucky Guard Youth Challenge Program; outline the purpose of the program; authorize the program to establish high schools to serve the program's students; align program with the federal National Guard Youth Challenge Program; establish the governance of the program; establish guidelines for the operation of the program; establish guidelines for the operation of the high schools operated by the program; authorize the adjutant general or designee to adopt policies for the operation of the program's schools; establish an advisory council for the program; require the adjutant general or designee to enter into a memorandum of agreement to provide for the operation of the program's schools; amend KRS 164.7874 to allow program school students to participate in KEES scholarship program; and amend KRS 164.7885 to conform.**
 - DMA agency legislation
 - Excellent Kentucky National Guard initiative to align their existing Youth Challenge Program for consideration as formal high school education
 - Based on the validated long-term success of the program

- Passed House (96-0)
- Passed Senate March 29 (37-0), with acceptable Committee Substitute

HB 319 (Tipton)

- **Create a new section of KRS Chapter 161 to implement the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (and related reporting).**
- Strongly support; KCMA agency legislation; also a Kentucky Department of Education agenda item
- Brand new DOD priority legislation as part of their military spouse occupational licensing initiative
 - Coordinated initial support with Sen. Mike Wilson, who is a member of our Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission state council
- DOD and Council of State Governments are working on multiple national compacts to develop licensure portability policy for military spouses, including teachers
 - Kentucky is currently a member of six of the seven DOD priority national licensing compacts
 - Teachers and Cosmetology are being added by DOD this year
 - Leadership elected after the session began to pursue the Teachers compact this session, following support from the education community
- Occupational licensure compacts provide consistent rules for licensed members to work in other states
 - The military provisions added to these compacts assist service members and their spouses in participating through "privilege to practice policies" or to more easily transfer their license to a new state
- No negative impact on Kentucky regulatory requirements, broad support nationally for this rapidly growing compact
- Passed House 95-0 with CS and CA on March 8
- Passed Senate Education 10-0 on March 16; to Consent in Senate
 - CS adopted to allow for statements versus affidavits to document teacher absence
- Passed Senate 36-1 March 30
- Concurred with by House 99-0 March 30

HB 594 (Timoney)

- **Outlaws "gray area"/skill gaming machines.**
- "Gray area"/skill gaming machines are hurting the ability of many VSO posts to raise money to support their veterans' services and other charitable endeavors
- The Kentucky Commanders of the VFW, American Legion, DAV, and AMVETS have all agreed to support the Joint Executive Council of Veterans Organizations (JECVO) in urging the legislature to eliminate these "gray area"/skill gaming machines from the state
- Passed House 64-32 with CS, FA and CA (all favorable)
- Passed Senate 29-6; signed by Governor

HR 53 (Wesley)

- **A RESOLUTION recognizing the 75th anniversary of the enactment of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act.**
- Non-controversial resolution commemorating a great thing, the official integration of women into military service

- Adopted March 16

HR 86 (Tate)

- **A RESOLUTION encouraging the Commonwealth of Kentucky to assist the United States Department of Defense by tasking the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs, the Transportation Cabinet, and the Department of the Kentucky State Police to coordinate with the Department of Defense and the United States Army Fifth Corps at Fort Knox to develop a potential solution for obtaining Kentucky motor vehicle operator licenses for unlicensed members of the Armed Forces stationed outside the United States.**
- Companion to HB 220 (Tate), which will not move this session
- KCMA and Transportation Cabinet agency legislation, strongly support
- Completed multiple meetings with Transportation Cabinet and KSP operations and legal personnel on potential Kentucky support for Army driver licensing of forward-based personnel in Europe, as requested for assessment by U.S. Army V (Fifth) Corps at Fort Knox, which manages approximately 8,500 Army personnel forward-based in European locations
 - LRC was wonderful in working to draft this legislation and resolution
 - We determined this may be “doable;” will be evaluated by all affected agencies over the interim for potential action in the 2024 General Assembly, if determined feasible
- Introduced March 13; Adopted March 30

SR 28 (Wilson)

- **Recognizes and honors Captain Thomas F. Mantell Jr.**
 - Capt. Mantell was a distinguished and highly regarded Kentucky Air National Guard pilot who died while “chasing” a UFO in his P-51 aircraft in 1948
 - Capt. Mantell became a highly controversial figure in that this event was adopted by elements of the UFO “community” as proof of alien activity – to no fault of Capt. Mantell
 - The Air Force believes he was most likely chasing a silver metallic weather balloon and took the aircraft too high, passing out from failure of the oxygen system
 - Accurate and non-controversial resolution
 - Adopted January 6

SB 47 (West)

- **AN ACT relating to medicinal cannabis.**
- The bill establishes a structure to regulate the medical cannabis program, including dispensaries, cultivators, practitioners, processors and products and issuing identification cards to patients and caregivers
- The bill establishes the authorization process for practitioners to recommend the use of medicinal cannabis and establishes the cannabis business license application process and requirements
- Passed Senate 26-11 March 16 with Committee Substitute and Floor Amendment
- Passed House 66-33 March 30
- Signed by Governor March 31

SB 54 (Carpenter)

- **Amend KRS 164.7884 to define "proprietary school" and "qualified proprietary school program" and allow use of KEES funds for enrollment in a qualified proprietary school**

program; amend KRS 165.7879 to allow a student who attends an out-of-state high school or Department of Defense school due to a parent's military transfer to earn a KEES award if the student earned a base amount in a previous year at a Kentucky high school.

- Companion bill to HB 85 (Lawrence)
- My assessment is on the second half of this legislation only – no insight onto the first half prior to the semicolon
- Very positive message to the military community; little-to-no negative impact on the Education community, and could help entice a student back to Kentucky for post-secondary education
- This is one of those bills that gain traction over a period of years – finally under active, versus passive, consideration
- Provides KEES credit protections for military dependent students who move out of state before graduation
- Administration endorsement
- Why on Earth would Kentucky ever create a disincentive for students to return to Kentucky for college?
- Initiated by then KDVA Deputy Commissioner Dean Stoops in 2019
- Passed Senate (33-0)
- Passed House (93-0) w/Cmte Sub
- Concurred with by Senate, 32-0

SB 57 (Bledsoe)

- **KCMA AGENCY LEGISLATION**
- **Adopts the Cosmetology Licensure Compact**
 - Strongly support; KCMA agency legislation
 - Kentucky has historically been a national leader in supporting occupational licensing compacts
 - This is DOD priority legislation as part of their military spouse occupational licensing initiative
 - DOD and Council of State Governments are working on multiple national compacts to develop licensure portability policy for military spouses, including teachers
 - Kentucky is currently a member of six of the first seven DOD priority national licensing compacts
 - Teachers and Cosmetology were added by DOD this year
 - Occupational licensure compacts provide consistent rules for licensed members to work in other states
 - The military provisions added to these compacts assist service members and their spouses in participating through “privilege to practice policies” or to more easily transfer their license to a new state
 - This legislation was heard by both the Veterans, Military Affairs & Public Protection and the Licensing & Occupations committees during the interim
 - Passed Senate Licensing & Occupations/ Passed Senate Floor (33-1)
 - Passed House 100-0; signed by Governor

SB 60 (Deneen)

- **Adopts amend KRS 186.416 to allow military personnel stationed outside the state to submit documentation to obtain a motorcycle endorsement on an existing operator's license either through mail or electronically**
 - Defer to the Transportation Cabinet for fiscal impact, but is a positive step to supporting military community, so we support this element of the omnibus legislation on motorcycles
 - Passed Senate 34-0, with floor amendment allowing electronic or mail application for motorcycle endorsement for spouses and dependents of members of the military stationed outside the Commonwealth
 - Passed House 98-0

SR 84 (Tichenor)

- **A RESOLUTION recognizing June 12, 2023, as Women Veterans' Appreciation Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.**
 - Doesn't replace Veterans Day; it's simply a deserved acknowledgement of then-President Dwight Eisenhower officially integrating women into the regular Armed Forces, as appropriate
 - Congress has designated June 12 as Women Veterans' Recognition Day
 - Adopted by voice vote in Senate February 21

SB 144 (Girdler)

- **AN ACT relating to the Kentucky battlefield preservation fund. Amend KRS 171.394 to require that matching nonstate funds from nonprofit organizations be dollar for dollar for Civil War sites and one dollar to each three dollars for Revolutionary War sites in order to receive funds from the Kentucky battlefield preservation fund; require approval of the state historic preservation officer for grants exceeding 50% of the appraised value of the land or permanent protective interests.**
 - Companion piece is HB 464 (Elliott)
 - Mandates matching funds for donations
 - Preserving our nation's history is a grand and essential calling
 - This is about preserving physical battlefields, not about memorializing any causes, so it should be apolitical
 - Driving force behind this legislation is former Fish & Wildlife Commissioner, among other roles, Tom Bennett
 - Tom is a consultant with the American Battlefield Trust
 - Over 20 Kentucky military battlefield sites are impacted, from the big battlefields at Perryville and Blue Licks to smaller sites across the Commonwealth
 - Passed Senate 33-0
 - Passed House 97-0

BILLS THAT FAILED TO PASS THE 2023 KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HB 19 (Thomas)

- **Exempt all DOD-paid military retirement income tax**
 - No movement, considered unfunded mandate
 - KDMA and KCMA priority, administration endorsed, not in budget bill but growing support a strong plus
 - Endorsed by Governor Beshear and by Kentucky's Joint Executive Council of Veterans Organizations (JECVO)
 - Policy exists in varying forms in some 35 states, including our surrounding states
 - Assigned to A&R

HB 24 (Wesley)

- **Amend KRS 138.470 to exempt active members of the Kentucky National Guard from motor vehicle usage tax on vehicles purchased from Kentucky motor vehicle dealers; amend KRS 138.450 to conform; EFFECTIVE July 1, 2023.**
 - Already applies to active duty – would expand to part-timers
 - Assigned to A&R

HB 25 (Thomas)

- **Create a new section of KRS Chapter 132 to exempt up to two motor vehicles owned by totally disabled veterans with a 100% service-connected disability rating from property taxation and amend KRS 132.485 to conform; amend KRS 91A.080, 136.340, 136.350, 136.360, and 136.392 to exempt totally disabled veterans with a 100% service-connected disability rating from insurance premium taxes and surcharges; amend KRS 150.170 to exempt totally disabled veterans with a 100% service-connected disability rating from hunting and fishing licensing requirements; amend KRS 186.531 to exempt totally disabled veterans with a 100% service-connected disability rating from the fees required for a voluntary travel ID or standard personal identification card or operator's license; make applicable to motor vehicles assessed on or after January 1, 2024.**
 - Expands eligibility for disabled veteran fee exemptions
 - Assigned to A&R

HB 28 (Frazier Gordon)

- **Create a new section of KRS Chapter 2 to designate the fourth Thursday in March of each year as Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day.**
 - Passed House Chamber 95-0 February 17
 - Assigned to Senate State and Local Govt

HB 43 (Hart)

- **Deferred to the 2024 session, per consensus**
- **KCMA AGENCY LEGISLATION**
- **Creates the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact**
 - **TABLED TO 2024 SESSION TO ALLOW THE NATIONAL COMPACT TO REVIEW EFFORTS BY STATES TO LIMIT LICENSE PORTABILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED IMPACT ON THE COMPACT**
 - Strongly support; KCMA agency legislation
 - DOD priority legislation as part of their military spouse occupational licensing initiative
 - DOD and Council of State Governments are working on multiple national compacts to develop licensure portability policy for military spouses, including teachers

- Kentucky is currently a member of six of the first seven DOD priority national licensing compacts
- Occupational licensure compacts provide consistent rules for licensed members to work in other states
 - The military provisions added to these compacts assist service members and their spouses in participating through “privilege to practice policies” or to more easily transfer their license to a new state
- No negative impact on Kentucky regulatory requirements, broad support nationally for this rapidly growing compact; still some concern over the potential for losing talent to other, higher-paying, states

HB 55 (Dotson)

- **Amend KRS 186.162, relating to special license plates, to include veterans with at least a 50% service-connected disability in the fee exemption.**
 - Expands eligibility
 - Assigned to A&R

HB 63 (Bratcher)

- **KCMA AGENCY LEGISLATION**
- **Omnibus bill to amend KRS 40.400, relating to the bonus for Vietnam veterans, to include the United States Space Force in the definition of Armed Forces; amend KRS 156.730, the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to correct a citation to federal law; amend KRS 156.735 to include the children of National Guard and Reserve personnel within the rights granted under that compact.**
 - The Vietnam veterans bonus change simply adds “or her” to the language
 - No substantive effect other than to correct gender usage
 - Adding of the part-time National Guard and Reserve force to the protections of the Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3), KRS 156.730
 - Requested by DOD, Joint Chiefs of Staff, MIC3 national leadership
 - Currently protection only extends to “full-time” military
 - No cost addition
 - Kentucky already has a best practice of additionally adding this protection to DOD civilian employees, over and above the base compact – same concept here (KRS 156.735)
 - Fixing a simple citation error in the base MIC3 compact language of KRS 156.730
 - Federal statute was accidentally referred to as a Section versus a Chapter
 - Applies to all 50 states, with technical correction necessary in each state
 - Adding U.S. Space Force to the definition of U.S. Armed Forces components in KRS 40.400(3)
 - Requested by DOD to ensure veterans get the appropriate benefits in every state
 - No Space Force elements in Kentucky yet (or most states), but, since they acquired their 6,000 personnel from the other service components, they are already having Space Force retirees that need to be properly classified
 - Passed House 100-0

- Passed Senate VMAPP 10-0 March 6; not on Consent (Sen Berg would not support Consent for bills passed in her committees that day)
- Failed to be brought to a vote on Senate floor

HB 65 (Dossett)

- **Allows the Freedom Flag to be flown as a Flag of Remembrance each September 11**
 - Passed House 87-0 last year; languished in Senate VMAPP
 - Challenge for legislature is if you accept one flag, then you almost have to accept all flags
 - Exception is the nationally recognized POW/MIA flag
 - Passed House VMAPP March 7

HB 85 (Lawrence)

- **Amend KRS 164.7884 to define "proprietary school" and "qualified proprietary school program" and allow use of KEES funds for enrollment in a qualified proprietary school program; amend KRS 165.7879 to allow a student who attends an out-of-state high school or Department of Defense school due to a parent's military transfer to earn a KEES award if the student earned a base amount in a previous year at a Kentucky high school.**
 - Senate version has passed (SB 54)
 - Assigned to A&R

HB 87 (Bratcher)

- **Amend KRS 138.470 to exempt active members of the Armed Forces assigned to Kentucky who are on temporary duty in other locations and members of the Kentucky National Guard from motor vehicle usage tax on vehicles purchased from Kentucky motor vehicle dealers; EFFECTIVE July 1, 2023**
 - Bills with a fiscal impact face a very difficult road this session
 - Assigned to A&R

HB 89 (Graham)

- **Appropriate General Fund moneys to the Bowling Green Veterans Center capital project along with numerous other projects and programs.**
 - Seems to be a duplicate of HB 2, already passed and signed by Governor
 - Assigned to A&R

HB 108 (Johnson)

- **Creates the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact**
 - **WITHDRAWN WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6**
 - **No reason given – legislation failed to advance in prior sessions as it wasn't deemed fully developed, very similar to the EMS Compact legislation**
 - Sponsor changed from Walker Thomas to DJ Johnson
 - Now KCMA priority legislation, as DOD has finally adopted this as a priority compact
 - Kentucky has historically been a leader in supporting occupational licensing compacts; interestingly, though, this particular compact hasn't gained traction the past couple of years – it only affects APRNs and not the entire nursing community
 - Kentucky has been a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact since 2017

HB 190 (Massaroni)

- **Create a new section of KRS Chapter 38 to restrict the use of the Kentucky National Guard outside of state active duty unless Congress officially declares war or has taken official action pursuant to the United States Constitution and has satisfied any outstanding balance to the Kentucky National Guard; establish a short title of Defend the Guard Act**
 - The “Defend the Guard” Act is, from a National Guard perspective, a bill that severely restricts the ability of the Governor and the Commonwealth to support Department of Defense
 - Part of a national initiative in the name of “state rights”
 - This legislation would result in the loss of multiple tens of millions of dollars, or more, to the Kentucky National Guard in federal funding, some of which would have to be picked up by the state
 - No movement

HB 218 (Raymer)

- **Create a new section of KRS Chapter 2 to define and designate the Honor and Remember flag as the state's emblem of the service and sacrifice of the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who have given their lives in the line of duty; specify locations, dates, and circumstances under which the flag may be displayed; and provide that if Congress designates a flag to honor those service members who have given their lives in the line of duty, then that flag shall be used instead of the one created by Honor and Remember, Inc.**
 - This is voluntary, desired by Gold Star Families
 - Support has been slowly growing, so has potential, but no solid traction for years
 - Concerns about setting precedent, and other flags (unrelated) are being proposed now
 - POW/MIA flag has long been considered the “national” flag of the veterans’ community
 - Assigned to House VMAPP

HB 219 Raymer

- **Amend KRS 342.0011 to allow "injury" to include psychological injuries for police officers, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, front-line staff, or members of the National Guard; create a new section of KRS Chapter 342 to establish when psychological injuries are valid workers' compensation claims when no physical injury exists.**
- DMA agency legislation, strongly support
- During the 2009 session, we added workers’ comp protection for National Guard personnel injured or made ill while performing State Active Duty service
 - 10 personnel were badly injured during the January 2009 Winter Ice Storm response, and were not covered by Tricare because they were not on federal status
 - This legislation seeks to add mental health coverage due to exposure to trauma
 - Primary obstacle is unpredictable fiscal cost
 - No movement this session

HB 220 (Tate)

- **Create a new section of KRS 186.400 to 186.640 to establish procedures for the issuance of operator's licenses for service members stationed outside the United States; amend KRS 186.450 to conform.**
- KCMA and Transportation Cabinet agency legislation, strongly support
- Completed multiple meetings with Transportation Cabinet and Kentucky State Police (KSP) operations and legal personnel on potential Kentucky support for Army driver licensing of

forward-based personnel in Europe, as requested for assessment by U.S. Army V (Fifth) Corps at Fort Knox, which manages approximately 8,500 Army personnel forward-based in European locations

- LRC was wonderful in working with KCMA to draft this legislation
- We determined this may be “doable,” as outlined below, in tandem with the Army and the Kentucky General Assembly, represented by sponsor Rep. Tate, with strong support from Sen. Higdon
- Requires both legislation and operational agreement with the Army to support - addressed in bill
- Affected Army personnel needing a Kentucky driver’s license through this program will have to elect Kentucky residency - this bill allows them to do so by using the host unit (in Kentucky) address, if they don't already have property here
- Two challenge areas – legal and operational
 - First, the operational – We might be able work out an agreement with the Army for 7th Army Training Command ATC and V Corps to proxy for KSP (approved in bill) to administer the eye test, the written exam and the driving test; if not, must determine the additional workload for KSP
 - The bill waives the permit period
 - There is precedent in the licensing of school bus drivers, which is done by proxy
 - This bill addresses the main challenge (legal) by amending Kentucky law to create an exemption allowing for military personnel assigned overseas but linked to a Kentucky-based unit (V Corps) for administrative purposes to claim Kentucky residency on that basis and qualify for a Kentucky driver’s license
- One concern is it doesn’t appear to us that the Army can mandate a soldier choose Kentucky residency
 - That's an an Army challenge, not a Kentucky one – acknowledged by the Army, which says they are willing to handle that issue internally and will protect the decision rights of soldiers
- Assigned to VMAPP February 16
- In lieu of this legislation, House Resolution 86 passed after vetting with KSP and Transportation/Justice Cabinets (see HR 86)

HB 253 (McCool)

- **Create a new section of KRS Chapter 337 to require the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs to create and distribute a veterans' benefits and services document to employers and require employers to keep copies of a veterans' benefits and services document in a conspicuous and accessible place.**
 - Intent is clearly good – appraising veterans and employers of rights and responsibilities is a very positive step – defer to KDVA for budget and staff impact
 - More a staff workload versus actual expense issue, assuming the document can be placed on the KDVA website for download
 - If the document must be printed and distributed by the state, that is far more significant
 - Most likely a mixed reception from employers, who may consider this a positive step yet may be concerned about any additional bureaucratic burden

- No movement

HB 265 (McCool)

- **Create a new section of KRS Chapter 337 to require the Department of Workplace Standards consult with the Department of Veterans' Affairs to create and distribute a veterans' benefits and services poster for display in businesses with more than 50 full-time employees.**
 - Similar to HB 253, the intent is clearly good – appraising veterans and employers of rights and responsibilities is a very positive step – defer to KDVA and Workplace Standards for budget and staff impact
 - No movement

HB 343 (Doan)

- **AN ACT to create new sections of KRS Chapter 335B to allow universal recognition of occupational licenses and government certifications; include work experience as basis; include military personnel and their spouses; exclude interstate licensure compacts; allow Act to be cited as the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act.**
- Review pending more information – this is very interesting, as Congress just passed a law mandating reciprocity for military spouses nationwide
 - This goes beyond military spouses
 - Major concern for DOD is that this only protects military spouses entering Kentucky – no such protection for their license portability when transferring to another state
 - Only truly effective if all 50 states pass similar legislation, which is problematic
 - In the interim, compacts are the only DOD-recognized military families' solution

HJR 16 (Thomas)

- **Designates a portion of Kentucky Route 345 in Christian County as the Gold Star Families Memorial Highway**
 - Gold Star Families are those who have lost family members in military service, and absolutely merit recognition
 - Gold Star Families have become a prominent and effective advocacy organization for veterans and military families
 - Christian County and Fort Campbell are a strong base for Gold Star Family operations
 - No movement

HB 403 (Fleming)

- **Amend KRS 311A.030 to remove the classifications of ambulance services, mobile integrated healthcare programs, and medical first response providers; amend KRS 311A.142 to permit an emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician, advanced emergency medical technician, or paramedic in good standing in another state to be eligible for reciprocity at the same level of certification or licensure; amend KRS 142.301, 205.5602, 211.9523, 311A.010, 311A.170, and 405.075 to conform; repeal KRS 311A.185, relating to determination of death by a paramedic; EMERGENCY.**
 - Creates compact-like protections for those coming into Kentucky, avoids joining the DOD-priority EMS compact, and doesn't extend those protections to those leaving Kentucky
 - No movement

HB 407 (Stevenson)

- **Amend KRS 164.507 to remove degree-seeking requirement for nonremarried spouse and children of a deceased veteran when utilizing educational benefits; require students to use federal grant funds toward tuition prior to the use of the waiver; amend KRS 164.515 to expand educational benefit to include service members with a disability rating of 50% or higher; remove degree-seeking requirement; require students to use federal grant funds toward tuition prior to the use of the waiver.**
- KDVA agency legislation; support the intent
 - Reduces the disability percentage required for tuition exemption from 100 percent to 50 percent; eliminates “intent” to obtain a diploma to use to the benefit
 - Encourages greater use of these benefits by lowering the threshold and eliminating the discriminator that once a certification is earned the benefit ceases
 - Failed to progress in the past two sessions due to fiscal note and lack of universal post-secondary education support, and this year’s version increases the fiscal note by further reducing the disability percentage from 70 to 50 percent, which has an additional fiscal impact
- No movement

HB 411 (Stevenson)

- **AN ACT requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs to promulgate administrative regulations to establish a consistent and uniform process to identify the status and eligibility of individuals as discharged LGBTQ veterans in the presentation or establishment of all claims, privileges, rights, and other benefits which individuals may have under state or local law; and develop a standardized form used to confirm that a veteran has a qualifying condition.**
- No movement

HB 414 (Stevenson)

- **AN ACT relating to Women Veterans' Appreciation Day and declaring an emergency.**
- SR 84 (Tichenor) passed easily and is probably Majority Leadership’s compromise position as it doesn’t have the force of law
 - It doesn't replace Veterans Day; it's simply a deserved acknowledgement of then-President Dwight Eisenhower officially integrating women into the regular Armed Forces, as appropriate
- One important thing to note is that Congress has already designated June 12 as Women Veterans’ Recognition Day
- No movement

HB 464 (Elliott)

- **AN ACT relating to the Kentucky battlefield preservation fund. Amend KRS 171.394 to require that matching nonstate funds from nonprofit organizations be dollar for dollar for Civil War sites and one dollar to each three dollars for Revolutionary War sites in order to receive funds from the Kentucky battlefield preservation fund; require approval of the state historic preservation officer for grants exceeding 50% of the appraised value of the land or permanent protective interests.**
 - Companion piece is SB 144 (Girdler), which passed
- Passed House Chamber 94-4
- Assigned to Senate VMAPP; no further movement

SB 33 (Nemes)

- **Create a new section of KRS Chapter 164 to establish the Kentucky Cybersecurity Center (KentuckyCYBER) at the University of Louisville; establish the purpose and duties of KentuckyCYBER; create the KentuckyCYBER fund**
 - Entering intent was for appropriation of \$1,040,000 in fiscal year 2022-2023 and \$10,700,000 in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the KentuckyCYBER Fund
 - Bill amended (SC) to retain original provisions; add a provision that KentuckyCYBER shall facilitate cooperation among universities, primary education facilities, and business to create a secure cyberinfrastructure; delete appropriations for fiscal years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024
 - Positive amendment reflecting the realities of using state funding and creating an expectation for the future
 - Appropriations are reserved for budget sessions – now looking at a request in 2024 for approximately \$1M first year and \$10M second year
 - Passed Senate Chamber (36-0)
 - Passed House A&R 13-8, with emotionally charged rural area opposition due to proposed Louisville location; no vote on House floor
 - Assigned to economic development review over the interim

SB 76 (Yates)

- **Amend KRS 186.162 to require the Transportation Cabinet to produce motorcycle versions of all military-related special license plates identified in KRS 186.162; subject applicants for these plates to the same fees as those for motor vehicles**
 - Creates an additional way to honor the military community by extending all military-themed license plates to motorcycles
 - Assigned to Transportation

SB 82 (Girdler)

- **Amend KRS 198B.4021 to include specific military occupational specialties as applicable experience toward gaining a temporary elevator mechanic license.**
 - Appears to be an excellent bill recognizing military training and experience
 - Assigned to Licensing & Occupations

SB 136 (Southworth)

- **Create a new section of KRS Chapter 38 to restrict the use of the Kentucky National Guard outside of state active duty unless Congress officially declares war or has taken official action pursuant to the United States Constitution and has satisfied any outstanding balance to the Kentucky National Guard; establish a short title of Defend the Guard Act**
 - The “Defend the Guard” Act is, from a National Guard perspective, a bill that severely restricts the ability of the Governor and the Commonwealth to support Department of Defense
 - Part of a national initiative in the name of “state rights”
 - This legislation would result in the loss of multiple tens of millions of dollars, or more, to the Kentucky National Guard in federal funding, some of which would have to be picked up by the state
 - No movement